

purplish blue), and with under wing coverts decidedly yellowish rather than green. The differences in tone of blue are consistent even in worn individuals, and the colours of the under wing coverts are not normally subject to change through wear.

Range: Island of Luzon, Philippines.

Etymology: This new subspecies is named for Mr. John E. duPont, Director of the Delaware Museum of Natural History, in recognition of his contributions to our knowledge of Philippine birds.

Acknowledgments: Travel to New York to study collections of Philippine birds at the American Museum of Natural History was made possible through a grant from the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund of that institution. Specimens of both of these parrot species were examined in the Delaware Museum of Natural History through the courtesy of Mr. du Pont, after this study had been essentially completed in New York; these specimens are not included in the lists above. I am grateful to Mr. Galbraith and Mr. Goodwin of the Bird Room, British Museum (Natural History) for comparing specimens with the type of *Bolbopsittacus intermedius*.

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A new subspecies of *Pitta* from the Philippines

by Kenneth C. Parkes

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One of the handsomest in a family of generally handsome birds is *Pitta steerii*, an endemic Philippine species. Its head and nape are black; throat white; breast, flanks, rump, and a large patch on the wing coverts delicate blue; primaries, tail and abdomen black; crissum scarlet; back and inner secondaries green, the latter with deep blue edgings. According to current literature, the species is known only from the islands of Mindanao, Bohol, and Samar. The avifauna of the latter two islands is closely related to that of Leyte, which in fact lies between Bohol and Samar, so the presence on Leyte of Steere's *Pitta* was to be anticipated. This expectation was realized when the American Museum of Natural History, New York, received a specimen collected by G. L. Alcasid on 28th July 1961 at Barrio Patok, Dagami, Leyte. Study of this specimen together with the limited series from Samar and Mindanao in New York (the species is rather rare in collections) suggested the possibility of previously unnoticed geographic variation in *Pitta steerii*. Examination of material in additional museums confirmed the existence of two recognizable subspecies. Their distribution conforms with a well-known pattern in Philippine zoogeography, in that the Mindanao population differs

from those of the other three islands collectively. The type locality of *Brachyurus steerii* Sharpe is Dumalon, Mindanao. The unnamed race may be called:

Pitta steerii coelestis, subsp. nov.

Type: American Museum of Natural History no. 554153, adult male, collected at Bonga, Samar, Philippine Islands, 3rd July 1896, by J. Whitehead (collector's no. B754).

Characters: Differs from *P. s. steerii* of Mindanao in having all blues (underparts, wing coverts, rump) purer, less turquoise (greenish). This is best compared on the rump and wing coverts in many specimens, as the underparts are more subject to wear and discoloration, but is obvious when clean, freshly moulted specimens are compared. In addition, the dorsum of *coelestis* is of a distinctly darker and bluer (less yellow) green.

Range: The Philippine islands of Samar, Leyte, and Bohol.

Acknowledgments: This note is an outgrowth of a study of the birds of Leyte, supported by a grant from the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund of the American Museum of Natural History. I am grateful to the authorities of that institution, and those of the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, and the Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, for access to their collections.

Specimens examined: *P. s. steerii*, Mindanao, 10. *P. s. coelestis*, Leyte, 1; Samar, 11; Bohol, 8.

A back-cross hybrid involving Cinnamon Teal and Northern Shoveler, and remarks on hybrid characters in the group of "Blue-winged Duck"

by James M. Harrison & Jeffery G. Harrison

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This individual is the result of a cross between, as the male parent, a hybrid Northern Shoveler, *Anas clypeata* Linnaeus, female, and Cinnamon Teal, *Anas cyanoptera*, Vieillot, male, and a female Northern Shoveler, so that the bird is two-thirds Shoveler and one-third Cinnamon Teal. The bird was bred by Aubrey Buxton by design at the Stansted Wildlife Park in 1967, dying when a year old on 12th May 1968. It is now in the Harrison Zoological Museum collections, and is illustrated as Plate 1.

The overall appearance of this remarkable specimen is predominantly Shoveler, and in fact it bears so close a resemblance to the New Zealand Shoveler, *A. rhynchosotis variegata* (Gould), as to be almost indistinguishable.

Description—Upper parts: from the root of the neck to the upper mantle, pale ash barred closely with sepia. Towards the mantle the ground colour becomes warmer by suffusion with pinkish-buff. The centre of the mantle is dark brown with paler indistinct narrow feather margins; the rump is dark brownish-sepia. The upper tail coverts are very dark sepia shot with greenish-blue reflections laterally. The central feathers are lighter and browner with narrow paler feather margins. The rectrices are ash-brown with broadish almost white margins, intermediate between those of the two species involved.

Under parts and flanks: ground colour of breast somewhat similar to, but